

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 SAJ-01 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /116 W

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P R 051705Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4153

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 4819

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IT, YO

SUBJECT: ZONE B DISPUTE

DIA FOR AA2, AA4, AND DI5

REF: ROME 4740

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. PUBLICATION BY YUGOSLAVS OF SEQUENCE OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO CURRENT DISPUTE IS CAUSING ITALIANS TO REVIEW POLICY OF CONCILIATION. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING FONOFF YUGOSLAV OFFICE DIRECTOR PIETROMARCHI, TANJUG PUBLICATION APRIL 4 OF SEQUENCE OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO PRESENT DISPUTE, INCLUDING CONFIDENTIAL DIPLOMATIC CONVERSATIONS, HAS REGRETTABLY RAISED LEVEL OF DISPUTE ANOTHER NOTCH. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT TANJUG REPORT IS ESSENTIALLY ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF WHAT HAS OCCURRED SINCE ERECTION OF YUGOSLAV SIGNS ALONG DEMARCATON LINE IN LATE JANUARY, PIETROMARCHI EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT PUBLIC REVELATION OF ROLES PLAYED BY GOI FONOFF OFFICIALS, PARTICULARLY POLITICAL DIRECTOR GENERAL DUCCI, COULD LEAD TO SOME DOMESTIC CRITICISM OF THEIR CONCILIATORY ATTITUDES
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IN EARLY STAGES OF PRESENT DISPUTE.

3. IN REVIEWING SEQUENCE OF EVENTS WITH US, PIETROMARCHI NOW ACKNOWLEDGES, THAT, FOLLOWING ERECTION OF SIGNS, DUCCI HAD IN FACT HANDED OFFICIAL NOTE OF PROTEST TO YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR PAVICEVIC ON FEBRUARY 22. FINDING THE NOTE TOO STRONG, PAVICEVIC, A GOOD FRIEND OF DUCCI, SUGGESTED THAT DUCCI TAKE IT BACK AND MAKE ORAL PROTEST INSTEAD. HAVING PAVICEVIC'S ASSURANCE THAT HE WOULD KEEP QUESTION OF NOTE BETWEEN DUCCI AND HIMSELF, DUCCI AGREED. AT THIS POINT ITALIANS FELT THAT, HAVING MADE ORAL STATEMENT OF GOI VIEWS ON TERRITORIAL QUESTION FOR THE RECORD, MATTER WAS SETTLED. HOWEVER, ON MARCH 6 PAVICEVIC CALLED ON DUCCI AGAIN AND INFORMED HIM UNDER INSTRUCTIONS THAT BELGRADE WANTED WITHER A WRITTEN NOTE OR STATEMENT THAT ORIGINAL NOTE NEVER EXISTED. ANGERED BY WHAT WAS CONSIDERED A BETRAYAL OF CONFIDENCE ON PAVICEVIC'S PART AND NOT WISHING TO BACK DOWN FROM GOI'S LEGAL POSITION ON ZONE B, ITALIANS RESPONDED WITH THEIR NOTE OF MARCH 11 WHICH WAS IDENTICAL TO FEBRUARY 22 NOTE.

4. IN DISCUSSING TANJUG RELEASE, PIETROMARCHI NOTED THAT YUGOSLAVS HAD NOT AS YET MADE FOOD ON THEIR THREAT TO PUBLISH RECORD OF SECRET TALKS AIMED AT NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF ZONE B JURIDICAL STATUS. PIETROMARCHI FELT THAT BELGRADE MAY BE HESITATING TO DO SO BECAUSE RECORD WOULD SHOW THAT VERY FACT OF NEGOTIATING TO OBTAIN GOI DE JURE RECOGNITION OF ZONE B UNDERMINES BELGRADE'S CURRENT CLAIM THAT ZONE B HAS BEEN YUGOSLAV TERRITORY ALL ALONG. PIETROMARCHI INDICATED THAT FONOFF IS NOW CONSIDERING PROS AND CONS OF PUBLICATION OF SECRET TALKS FROM ROME. ISSUE BOILS DOWN TO WEIGHING OF EMBARRASSMENT WHICH PUBLICATION WOULD CAUSES FOR GOI VIS-A-VIS PARLIAMENT AND PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST DAMAGE IT WOULD DO TO YUGOSLAV TERRITORIAL CLAIMS.

5. IN LIGHT OF BELGRADE'S LATEST INITIATIVE, ITALIANS ARE NOW RECONSIDERING HOW TO RESPOND TO GOY NOTE OF MARCH 30. ORIGINAL THOUGHT HAD BEEN TO REPLY WITH NOTE TAKING CONCILIATORY LINE DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE BELGRADE TO COOL OFF ISSUE WHILE NOT SPECIALLY MENTIONING, BUT AT SAME NOT RENOUNCING, ITALIAN LEGAL POSITION. AT THIS POINT, PIETROMARCHI IS NOT SURE WHAT LINE GOI RESPONSE WILL TAKE.

6. COMMENT: IF THE DEPARTMENT CONCURS, WE PROPOSE TO REVIEW
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THIS AFFAIR SOON AT A SUITABLY HIGH-LEVEL, REITERATE OUR POSITION AND URGE THE ITALIANS TO KEEP THEIR RESPONSE ON A COOL STATESMANLIKE LEVEL. VOLPE

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